

Advice to Schoolmen

Therefore we do further declare:

(1) It is essential that those responsible for the administration of our schools should be alert, that the fundamentals of a sound education are taught to our Virginia children, including an understanding of the fundamental constitutional system under which we live, the blessings of liberty which it alone bestows, the part played by great Virginians of the past in the struggle for the establishment and preservation of these liberties.

(2) It is essential that the molding of the minds, characters and spiritual lives of our children should remain under the control of Virginia parents. We do, therefore, urge our representatives in the Congress and the United States Senate to oppose all legislation designed directly or indirectly to repose control of our educational system in the Federal government. We specifically condemn the wholesale expenditure of Federal funds in support of the public schools of Virginia, knowing full well that the acceptance of such support requires the submission of our schools progressively to ideologies and influences alien to our people.

(3) We oppose any effort to weaken further the immigration laws of America and the further depletion of our economic resources in the continuation of so-called aid to foreign nations. Loyalty and friendship in foreign affairs is controlled by self-interest and can not be purchased however vast may be the outpouring of our tax revenue.

Ask Spending Cut

(4) We recognize that the real source of Federal power and centralization rests in the control of the Federal government of the income and economic resources of the American people. We deplore the continued and ever increasing burden of Federal taxation, the return of such revenue to our people being

always conditioned upon a further loss of their liberties. We do, therefore, urge the people of America to demand the immediate reduction in Federal expenditures with the resulting reduction of the ever mounting Federal revenues exacted from our people.

(5) We declare our unalterable opposition to the submission of any portion of the sovereignty of the United States of America to the control of the United Nations or the submission of the domestic affairs of the states or the rights of any citizens of the United States to the control to any extent or by any means to the United Nations or any of its agencies or to the authority of any foreign power, government or agency whatsoever.

Wherefore, since Virginia, as so often in the past, is again in this generation the battle ground upon which the struggle for the eternal liberties of America must be waged, let us not falter. Let us conduct ourselves with dignity, with self-restraint, without violence and without hatred or ill-will toward any man or group of men. But withall let us conduct ourselves as worthy heirs of those who have gone before.

(Presented by Ernest W. Goodrich, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and passed unanimously by said convention.)

DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

405A East Franklin St.
Richmond, Virginia

DECLARATION of CONVICTIONS

Adopted at First Annual Convention
DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY
AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES—
Hotel Jefferson—March 22-23, 1957

The Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties in convention assembled at Richmond, Virginia this the 23rd day of March, deem it appropriate that we should declare and affirm our convictions.

We first affirm our deep and abiding loyalty and devotion to our country and its institutions. We acknowledge the Constitution to be the bulwark of our liberties, ever subject to the sovereign powers reserved by it to the states and to the people. We know that the liberties of all Americans of all races rests upon the Constitution and the division of powers ordained therein. We deem it the obligation of free men to preserve the powers reserved under the Constitution to the states and to the people and to preserve the constitutional separation of the powers of government in the legislative, executive and judicial branches separately.

We believe that a policy which undertakes to force the association of one race with the other against the will of either, by court decree under threat of fine or imprisonment, is destructive of mutual good will and respect, breeds resentment and animosities, and is injurious to the true interests of all the people. We believe that the molding of the minds and characters of our children is the sacred duty and the priceless natural right and obligation of parents.

Constitutional Right

Freedom of decision with respect to these considerations touching as they do the most intimate relations of the people and the most cherished natural rights and duties of parenthood is absolutely essential to the maintenance, operation, management and control of our public schools. We conceive this freedom to be among the sacred rights "retained by the people" under the Ninth Amendment of the Federal Constitution.

Among the reserved rights and powers of the states, guaranteed to the State of Virginia under the Tenth Amendment, is the power to maintain racially separate public schools. We do not perceive that the exercise of this power has ever been prohibited to the states by any provision of the Federal Constitution. We believe that this power can be prohibited to the states only by the states themselves. To concede the right of a Federal Court to withdraw this power from the individual states is to concede that all the rights and powers of the states and of the people are enjoyed at the sufferance of the judiciary and that the guarantees of the liberties of the people are no longer fixed in the Constitution itself. Therefore, Federal Courts having refused to recognize these most fundamental, intimate and sacred rights and the profound necessity that they be respected, Virginia has been compelled to fix its course in defense of these rights of her people. We do most solemnly commend his Excellency, Governor Thomas B. Stanley and the members of the legislature of Virginia for their patriotic devotion to the liberties of their people and for the leadership they have given the people of Virginia in this crucial time. We pledge our support of the policy implicit in the measures adopted by the General Assembly of Virginia in its Special Session of 1956. We declare our conviction that these policies founded as they are

upon that first American tenet of liberty—that free men should not be taxed against their will and without their consent for a purpose to which they are deeply opposed—to be both sound and in the finest patriotic tradition of the Commonwealth.

Sen. Byrd Praised

We do most solemnly commend our great senior Senator from Virginia, Harry Flood Byrd, for his recent clarion call for all Virginians to stand staunch and firm where Virginia has always stood in ages past in opposition to tyranny from whatever quarter it may come. We do likewise salute the entire Virginia delegation to the United States Congress and Senate, both Democratic and Republican, for the stalwart fight which even now they wage against the vicious assault upon the liberties of all Americans being made in the United States Congress through the proposed pernicious Force Bills, sometimes called Civil Rights Bills, now pending before that body.

The threat to the liberties of our people is mortal. The course of Virginia has been set. The contest is for eternal values. We call upon all local legislative bodies of the counties and cities of Virginia in the sacred named of the liberties of our people to stand firm and united in support of the policy and the course which has been fixed for Virginia in this crucial hour.

We likewise call upon all people of America everywhere to unite in this time of crisis that we, in our day, may be worthy of our heritage and pass it on to future generations pure and unsullied.

Ask Free Speech

We believe in the absolute and utter necessity of preserving unimpaired for all Americans the priceless right of freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, the right of an accused to be confronted by his accusers, to presentment by grand jury and a trial by a jury of his

peers presided over by a fair and impartial judge. We decry the use by the Federal Judiciary of coercion, intimidation and threat of punishment to be visited upon local school boards and officers unless they refuse to recognize the lawful authority of the Virginia Pupil Placement Board and usurp and exercise pupil assignment powers which have been denied to said school boards and local officers by the duly enacted laws of the State of Virginia. We direct the attention of the entire nation to the dangers inherent in the wholesale resort to injunctive and summary contempt procedure designed to subvert and thwart the traditional constitutional and common law methods of criminal procedure.

These measures conceived and nurtured in the cynical greed of politicians for power, are directed against the people of the South, but they hold within themselves a deadly and mortal threat to the most sacred and essential constitutional safeguards to the liberties of all Americans of all generations. We appeal to Americans everywhere to arouse themselves from their lethargy and unite with us in the condemnation of these iniquitous measures.

While the immediate issue in the great contest that is presently being waged is brought into focus for Virginia and the people of the South in the unconstitutional usurpation of power exemplified in the school segregation decision by the United States Supreme Court and the threat of fine or imprisonment of our school and state officials, and through the denial of freedom of speech and trial by jury by Federal injunctive decree, nonetheless we are deeply convinced that the sinister attack upon the fundamental liberties of Americans and upon the basic constitutional system itself, manifests itself in many other facets of our American life.